# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Scott Weller
Serial Number: 09/780,893
Filed: February 9, 2001
For: Method And System For Assigning And Distributing Work Over A Computer Network

Art Unit: 3623
Examiner: S. Jarrett

## In the claims

A statement of the status of claims follows:

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (cancelled).

[[8]]Z. (currently amended) A system for ~~assigning and distributing work~~ persons to review and select work projects over a computer network comprising:

   a) a central internet web server acting as a central coordinating site;

   b) a plurality of remote terminals, each of said plurality of remote terminals being in communication with said central internet web server;

   c) a means for transferring a two-way data stream between said central Internet web server and each of said plurality of remote terminal;

   d) a first database, in communication with said central Internet web server, said first database containing a plurality of work project descriptions;

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e) a second database, in communication with said central Internet web server, said second database containing a description of a plurality of agents seeking work assignments;

f) a means for screening the set of qualifications each of said plurality of agents such that access to said first ~~data base~~ database is restricted to each of said plurality of agents who has a set of <u>broad</u> qualifications that match a set of <u>broad</u> criteria related to one of said plurality of work project descriptions;

g) a means for accessing said first ~~data base~~ database by ~~one of~~ said plurality of agents <u>simultaneously,</u> whereby ~~that one agent~~ <u>said plurality of agents</u> is able to review ~~only~~ a selection of said plurality of work projects that have a set of <u>broad</u> criteria that match the set of <u>broad</u> qualifications of that ~~one~~ <u>plurality of</u> agent<u>s</u>;

h) a means for accepting at least one of said plurality of work projects selected for review by one of said plurality of agents; ~~and~~

i) <u>a means for immediately assigning said work project accepted by one of said plurality of agents; and</u>

[[I]]j) a means for <u>immediately</u> locking out each of said plurality of agents from reviewing said work assignment after said one of said plurality of agents has accepted the at least one of said plurality of work projects.

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[[9]]8. (currently amended) The system of claim [[8]]7 further comprising a means for posting a workflow script to said central Internet web server from said at least one remote terminal.

[[10]]9. (currently amended) The system of claim [[8]]7 further comprising an identification number for each if said plurality of agents.

[[11]]10. (currently amended) The system of claim [[8]]7 further comprising a means for tracking work progress in communication with said central Internet web server.

[[12]]11. (currently amended) The system of claim [[8]]7 further comprising a means for verifying the status of said at least one work project.

[[13]]12. (currently amended) The system of claim [[12]]11 further comprising a means for making payment to said at least one agent upon completion of said at least one work project.

[[14]]13. (currently amended) A method for ~~assigning and distributing work~~ persons to review and select work projects over a computer network having a central internet web server acting as a central coordinating site; a plurality of remote terminals, each of said plurality of remote terminals being in communication with said central internet web server; a means for transferring a two-way data stream between said central internet web server and each of said plurality of remote terminal; a first

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database, in communication with said central internet web server, said first database

containing a plurality of work project descriptions; a second database, in

communication with said central internet web server, said second database containing

a description of a plurality of agents seeking work assignments; a means for accessing

said first ~~data-base~~ database by each of said plurality of agents to review said plurality

of work projects; a means for accepting at least one of said plurality of work projects

by at least one of said plurality of agents; ~~and~~ a means for immediately assigning said

work project accepted by one of said plurality of agents; and a means for immediately

a means for locking out each of said plurality of agents from reviewing said work

assignment after said at least one of said plurality of agents has accepted said at least

one of said plurality of work projects; comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a list of qualifications for each of said plurality of agents;

b) matching said list of qualifications to each of said plurality of work projects;
and

c) restricting access to a set of said plurality of work projects to a set of said

plurality of agents whose qualifications are matched to a scope of work defined in said

set of said plurality of work projects;

[[a]]d) posting [[a]] the plurality of work project descriptions on the central

internet web server;

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[[b]]e) having each of the plurality of agents review said plurality of work project descriptions, based on the plurality of agents qualifications;

[[c]]f) having one of said ~~set of~~ plurality of agents accept one of said plurality of work project descriptions;

g) immediately assigning said work project accepted by one of said plurality of agents in step f;

[[d]]h)immediately locking out all other agents of said ~~set of said~~ plurality of agents from accessing the work project description accepted by the one of said ~~set of~~ plurality of agents; and

e) repeating steps [[b-d]]e-h for each work project description of said ~~set of said~~ plurality of work project descriptions, until each of said work project descriptions have been assigned.

[[15]]14. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]]13 further comprising the step of:

a) establishing a work value for the work project accepted by the one of said plurality of agents.

[[16]]15. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]]13 further comprising the step of making a communication between a party posting a work project on said central Internet web server and an agent.

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[[17]]16. (currently amended)The method of claim [[16]]15 wherein the communication is selected from the group of: a resume of an agent's qualifications, a set of terms for performing a work project, a schedule of payments for a work project, an invoice for work completed, a status report on a work project, a partial delivery of a work project, and a final work product.

[[18]]17. (currently amended) The method of claim [[17]]16 wherein the set of terms for performing a work project is selected from the group of: a schedule for completion of a work project, a schedule for delivery of work project components, a list of other agents assigned to a work project, and a rate of compensation for a work project.

[[19]]18. (cancelled)

[[20]]19. (currently amended) The method of claim [[14]]13 further comprising the steps of:

a) monitoring the progress in each of said plurality of work projects;

b) making changes in an agent assigned to each of said plurality of work projects, consistent with a set of job specifications; and

c) repeating steps a and b until each of said plurality of work projects is completed.

20 (new) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:

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a) having said plurality of agents make bids on the work project as the project is being reviewed by said plurality of agents; and

b) having one of said plurality of agents accept one of said plurality of work project descriptions in consideration of the bids made by the other agents of said plurality of agents who are bidding on the work project.